



Special Purpose Parks





Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan

Hurst Athletic Complex

Type of Park: *Special Purpose Park.*

Address: 2104 Precinct Line Road
Size of Park: 42.20 Acres



Comments – This facility is divided into a Softball and Soccer complex. A unique element of this park is the way in which its entry is shaped and experienced. For example, to get to the Softball complex, visitors progress from the parking area through a gateway, cross over a drainage channel/creek via a narrower causeway, and then are guided into the facility by tall brick columns with colorful banners.

Unique to both complexes are the large, aesthetically pleasing, column-mounted, cast stone, softball and soccer entry features that highlight the sport that occurs at the particular complex.



The softball facility features a large, central covered area with high ceilings that give that space a sense of importance and grandeur. The soccer facility has a similar entryway experience. Its entry causeway crosses the path where three drainage ways meet into one. This then flows 'down stream' towards the softball facility's entry. A drainage



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way/stream also marks the separation line between the softball and soccer complexes. There is a great opportunity to develop the stream edge and crossings by planting trees and providing landscaped features and pathways. This will elevate the quality of the space from a 'drainage ditch' to an attractive amenity. Another possibility is to have a trail along the creek that would connect this facility to the Smith-Barfield Park located further to the south.

Existing Amenities in the Park:

- 4 softball fields (competitive)
- 10 soccer fields (competitive)
- 1 playground unit
- 3 group shelters
- 48 picnic units
- 1 bench
- 32 bleachers
- 2 drinking fountains
- 3 foot bridges
- 2 concession buildings
- 2 restroom facilities
- 1 portable restroom

Parking: **Off-Street:** 390 spaces
 On-Street: 0 spaces
 Handicap: 12 spaces

Based on the current supply of parking, the Hurst Athletics Complex is in compliance with the ADA requirement.

Recommended Park Improvements:

The following improvements are recommended for Hurst Athletics Complex:

- The location of the Soccer and Softball Complexes with a separated drainage way makes it ideal to provide a loop system of hike and bike trails. It is recommended to develop a trail with an integrated fitness course around the softball fields and for the full length of the creek with a connection along Lorean Branch.
- It is recommended to upgrade and restore the drainage way to be aesthetically pleasing and ecologically functioning where possible.
- The area along the drainage way between the Soccer and Softball Complexes upstream towards the northeast of the park offers the opportunity to create a unique setting for a nature experience. In order to increase accessibility, it is recommended to acquire land to the northeast of the park for the development of a neighborhood park and parking with direct access to the Athletic Complex.
- Provide an access to the Athletic Complex and the proposed new neighborhood park directly from Highway 26.
- Establish all newly acquired land as well as existing park land with native plants including grasses and wildflowers.
- Reduce turf to the minimum and only where required for ball play, picnic or grass seating.



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- During league and tournament play, it has become evident that there is a need for additional parking. The feasibility of finding land to provide such parking requires investigation.

A graphic of the proposed upgrade, together with a written description is provided in the Appendix to the report.



The Hurst Athletic Complex is a state of the art, well-lit facility. This is a view of one of the four competitive softball fields with the concession facility, restrooms and children's play area in the center.



This low water crossing provides an exciting and unique entry experience to the Hurst Athletic Complex. However, the drainage way requires upgrade to be aesthetically pleasing and ecologically functioning where possible. Recommendations include a trail along the edge of the drainage way.



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All age groups are provided for at the Hurst Athletic Complex.



Flags add color, pride and fun in an innovative manner.



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Rickel Park

Type of Park: ***Special Purpose Park.***

Address: 1001 Bluebonnet Drive

Size of Park: 29 Acres



Comments – Rickel Park has qualities that render it one of the most beautiful parks in the City of Hurst. A topographically dramatic entryway from Highway 10 onto Bluebonnet Drive leads the way into one of the park's two main entrances. This park has a natural setting that features walking, jogging and nature trails that wind through the park's dynamic topography set in a heavily wooded area.

Well-paved concrete paths are great for joggers and walkers. There are scenic lookout points along the paths and trails, most notably one on a path along a 'ravine' that provides special and dramatic geomorphological interest. The mixture of well-mowed landscapes along major paths with more natural foliage beyond creates a safe yet aesthetically pleasing environment. Other natural amenities include a winding stream that can be crossed at two points by footbridges.

Signs of erosion are noticeable at the base of some of the picnic areas or rest stops. A problem appears to be dog owners who do not clean up after their pets. The City has recently made an effort to alleviate this problem with the installation of pet waste disposal units in the park.

Existing Amenities in the Park:

- 0.5 miles of pedestrian trails



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- 1 playground unit
- natural areas
- 2 pavilions
- 12 picnic units
- 9 barbeque grills
- 6 benches
- 2 drinking fountains
- 2 foot bridges

Parking: **Off-Street:** 56 spaces
 On-Street: 0 spaces
 Handicap: 3 spaces

Based on the current supply of parking, Rickel Park is in compliance with the ADA requirement.

Recommended Park Improvements:

The following improvements are recommended for Rickel Park:

- The concrete that was used to create the rest stops (consisting of a picnic unit and a barbeque grill) has a “foreign” appearance in the natural setting of the park. Stonework could be added as a veneer on the “outside” of the surrounding retaining wall.
- Install erosion protection where it appears in heavily used areas.
- Develop a link to the Highway 10 Linear Park along the TXU easement that runs through the park.



The ‘ravine’ in the park has special and dramatic geomorphological and educational interest.



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This foot bridge appears elegant within its natural setting and invites exploration.



Concrete was used to create the rest stops that include a picnic unit and a barbeque grill; note the signs of erosion at the base of the concrete pad.



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Windmill Park

Type of Park: *Special Purpose Park.*

Address: 840 Cheryl Avenue
Size of Park: 2 Acres



Comments – As the name indicates, this park contains a windmill that is a historical marker within the City of Hurst. According to the information sign, the windmill was relocated to its present location in the mid 1970's. Some of the wording reads: "Now it stands in the neighborhood with a view to the southeast of the Fort Worth skyline."

The windmill is in need of restoration, and the surrounding landscape is in need of improvement in order to beautify this site. Crepe Myrtle trees that are planted around the windmill compromise its presence and visually block this historic feature. The informational plaque on the windmill's history is informative and of good quality. Other trees in the park include post oaks and introduced lace bark elms and ash trees.

Existing Amenities in the Park:

- 5 benches

Parking:	Off-Street:	0 spaces
	On-Street:	Number of unmarked Spaces
	Handicap:	0 spaces



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Recommended Park Improvements:

The following improvements are recommended for Windmill Park:

- Redevelopment of the park should include additional plantings, walkways and benches.
- Future park improvements must include measures to make access to the base of the windmill meet ADA requirements.
- The windmill is the main feature in the park, yet it is somewhat obscured by the surrounding trees. The stepped access from the street needs to be wider with the focus being the windmill. The idea should be to make the windmill a definite destination of interest. Once the visitor has reached the landing area at the base of the windmill, the surrounding landscape should encourage the park user to explore the park and enjoy the views.
- The topography of the site asks for a design that creates vistas down the slope as well as up the slope with the windmill as the focus of the view. This may require the removal of some existing plants.
- The windmill itself needs restoration.
- Consider enlarging Windmill Park by incorporating some of the land surrounding the adjacent city water pump station into the park.



The windmill is obscured by the surrounding planting.



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The park has well defined hard surface walking areas. The future design should include additional pathways with, at a minimum, ADA accessibility to the base of the windmill.



The city water pump station is located adjacent to the park. Future park improvements render the opportunity to incorporate some of the adjacent land into the park with focused views to this facility and to provide informational signage as a way to educate the community on water as an important natural resource.